

others. As the foreign partner will have 26 per cent equity, he will be the dominant partner and he will run the Air India. The truth is that whatever mask the Government puts on, we are giving away Air India to foreigners. It is ridiculous to think that just because the Government does not know how to run Air India, no Indian can run it. Air India did we when...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Drug Menace in the Country

*223. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Pakistan has been reportedly pushing new kinds of narcotics into Jammu and Kashmir as part of its efforts to fund cross-border terrorism; and

(b) if so, the action taken to stop spreading the menace of such drugs in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR): (a) Sir, the Government has not received any such report about new kinds of narcotics. However, seizure of opium, heroin and hashish has been made in Jammu and Kashmir.

(b) Government has adopted a multi-pronged strategy, which includes gearing up of the intelligence machinery, modernization and upgradation of police, border fencing, intensified border patrolling etc.

Formation of National Co-operative Bank

*224. SHRI K.M. SAIFULLAH:

DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to amend the banking law to allow formation of a National Co-operative Bank;

(b) if so, the purpose of the National Co-operative Bank; and

(c) the other steps proposed for easy access of the financial resources to various agricultural co-operatives?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) The Agriculture Credit Review Committee (ACRC) had envisaged an institution at national level in cooperative banking system to act as a spokesman of the cooperative banks and to function as a national balancing centre for the surpluses of the State system. Following these recommendations, National Cooperative Union of India (NCUI) had proposed setting up of a National Cooperative Bank. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) suggested some fundamental modifications and forwarded the proposal to the Government. The matter has been under examination of the Government. Meanwhile, in order to strengthen and revitalise the cooperative credit structure, Government had constituted a Task Force under Shri Jagdish Capoor, Deputy Governor of RBI to study the functioning of cooperative banks in the country and to suggest measures for their restructuring and strengthening in order to ensure adequate and efficient flow of credit through them. The report of the task force has been received recently and is under examination.

(c) Besides their own deposits, share capital and reserves, the cooperative banks have access to refinance from National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD).

Financial aid for Road Projects in Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra

***226. SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI:** Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received representations from various States like Gujarat, M.P. and Maharashtra for adequate finances and material help for upgrading the National Highways to strengthen road infrastructure in the States;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJNATH SINGH): (a) and (b) Requests have been received from various States for upgradation of the National Highway network through widening, strengthening, improvement